

Express Mail No. EK900600525US

Applicant Initiated Interview Request Form

Application No.: / First Named Applicant: Crow
 Examiner: Ly, Anh Art Unit: 2172 Status of Application:

Tentative Participants:

(1) Scott Ouellette (2) Ly, Anh
 (3) (4)

Proposed Date of Interview: TBD Proposed Time: TBD (AM/PM)

Type of Interview Requested:

(1) Telephonic (2) Personal (3) Video Conference

Exhibit To Be Shown or Demonstrated: YES NO

If yes, provide brief description:

Issues To Be Discussed

Issues (Rej., Obj., etc)	Claims/ Fig. #s	Prior Art	Discussed	Agreed	Not Agreed
(1) <u>Rej.</u>	<u>1, 2, 4-6</u>	<u>Ruane</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(2) <u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(3) <u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(4) <u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Continuation Sheet Attached

Brief Description of Arguments to be Presented:

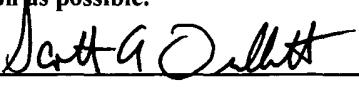
Please see Written Statement of the Substance.

An interview was conducted on the above-identified application on .

NOTE:

This form should be completed by applicant and submitted to the examiner in advance of the interview (see MPEP § 713.01).

This application will not be delayed from issue because of applicant's failure to submit a written record of this interview. Therefore, applicant is advised to file a statement of the substance of this interview (37 CFR 1.133(b)) as soon as possible.


 (Applicant/Applicant's Representative Signature)

(Examiner/SPE Signature)

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.133. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 21 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

Written Statement of the Substance per 37 CFR 1.133 (b)

Applicant:	Crow et al	Art Unit:	2172
Serial Number:	To be assigned	Examiner:	Ly, Anh
Filed:	To be assigned		
Title:	VERSATILE INDIRECTION IN AN EXTENT BASED FILE SYSTEM		

This is a written statement of the substance for the requested telephone interview resulting from an Advisory Action of the parent application serial number 09/301,057 mailed on August 1, 2003.

The rejection of claims 1, 2 and 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,991,862 to Ruane (hereinafter “Ruane”) was maintained by the examiner. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, in addition to other features, that a portion of the rows store extents pointing to data blocks, each extent having a field to indicate whether the extent is an indirect extent, a hole extent or a direct extent. There is no teaching or suggestion in Ruane for the pointer entry to be able to indicate that the pointer entry is a hole extent which points to an empty data block.

In Part 5 of the Advisory Action, the examiner stated, in response to applicants' argument that Ruane does not teach the invention recited in applicants' independent claim 1, that “...applicants argued about a hole extent which points to an empty data block and a single bit. Both empty data block and a single bit are not in claims 1 and 5.” The examiner seems to believe that applicant is claiming a single bit in addition to an empty data block. Clearly this is not the case. Applicants are not claiming a single bit, but rather are claiming that a portion of the rows store extents pointing to data blocks, each extent having a field to indicate whether the extent is an indirect extent, a hole extent or a direct extent. Ruane's disclosure does not teach or suggest the ability or

desire to have extents including a field indicating whether the extent points to an indirect extent, a hole extent or a direct extent.

Claims 2 and 4 depend from independent claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as independent claim 1.

Regarding claim 4, which recites that each extent further comprises a length field wherein the length field of each indirect extent indicates the number of data blocks pointed to indirectly by the indirect extent, the examiner states that Ruane teaches extents that are a list of physical addresses for searching the address and the size, physical address and length but refers to the Background section of the Specification, which recites the inventor's view that the described extents-based system is not desirable. In Column 2, Lines 30-35, the inventor recites that one of the problems with the extent-based system is that it requires a "very long list of 'physical address, length' pairs to specify a file." Clearly then, as explained in applicants' previous response, Ruane does not teach or suggest having a length field and actually teaches away from one. Ruane never addresses the issue of retrieving more than one data block with a single pointer. There is no teaching or suggestion of a pointer entry including a length field indicating a number of data blocks pointed to by the pointer entry.

Regarding independent claim 5, the examiner states that Ruane discloses assigning an inode to a data file to be stored and writing a plurality of extents in the inode, each extent pointing to a string of one or more data blocks for storing a segment of the data file and having a field for indicating that the extent is one of an indirect extent, a hole extent and a direct extent. This rejection is respectfully traversed, as Ruane does not teach or suggest a field for indicating that the extent is one of an indirect extent, a hole extent and a direct extent, or that each extent points to a string of one or more data blocks.

Claim 6 depends from independent claim 5 and is allowable for at least the same reasons as independent claim 5.

Applicants respectfully request an interview to further clarify Applicants' invention and the Examiner's cited references to Ruane. It is believed that such an interview will expedite prosecution and place this case in condition for allowance.

Date: 8/19/03

Respectfully submitted,



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